

BOOK REVIEWS

ZINSSER'S TEXTBOOK OF BACTERIOLOGY. Ninth Edition. Revised by David T. Smith, M.D., Donald S. Martin, M.D., Norman F. Conant, Ph.D., Joseph W. Blad, M.D., Grant Taylor, M.D., Henry I. Kohn, M.D., and Mary A. Poston, M.A. Appleton, Century, Crofts, Inc., New York, 1948. \$10.00.

This well known textbook, first published in 1910, has appeared in its ninth edition. Under the guidance of Hans Zinsser, Phillip Hanson Hiss, and Stanhope Bayne-Jones, it established itself as one of the outstanding works in the field. Now it has been revised by a group of workers at Duke University headed by David T. Smith. Rewriting has been very extensive and on the whole is remarkably up to date. Material is presented in a manner which permits satisfactory clinical orientation on the part of the student but a minimum of consideration is given to the clinical features of infectious disease. This seems to the reviewer to be most satisfactory since textbooks and monographs must invariably be consulted for adequate descriptions of the nature of such disorders in any case.

The sections devoted to the nature of bacteria and host-parasite relationship are good, as are those describing the pathogenic bacteria. More unusual, in a one-volume text, are the excellent sections devoted to rickettsial and virus disease, and to the fungi. The interest of several of the authors in infection by the last group of agents is well known. A concluding section describes methods for the study of microorganisms and the isolation of such agents from patients. This material is presented very concisely and should be of considerable value to the medical student and physician. In the opinion of the reviewer this is the best one-volume textbook of bacteriology for medical students and physicians.

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ATLAS OF OBSTETRIC TECHNIC. By Paul Titus, M.D., Obstetrician-Gynecologist to St. Margaret Memorial Hospital, Pittsburgh; Secretary, American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Illustrations by E. M. Shackelford. Second Edition. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, Mo., 1949. \$8.50.

As stated in the preface to the first edition, "This book undertakes to present in pictorial form (line drawings), with short titles, the subject of modern obstetric technique now accepted as standard for normal and operative deliveries, as well as for various complications of pregnancy and the puerperium. It includes also a section on the technique of sterility studies." Text is limited to a few brief comments at the beginning of each section, and to short supplementary descriptions of the procedures depicted. At the end of each section there are several blank pages so that one might record one's own observations and sketches. There are sections on pelvimetry, minor and major operations during pregnancy, abortion, ectopic pregnancy, cesarean section, induction of labor, and the usual vaginal procedures associated with obstetrics, such as normal delivery, forceps operations, version and extraction, breech extraction, destructive operations, packing of the uterus, etc.

The pictorial and written descriptions of the procedures chosen for consideration are adequate in most instances. The selection of procedures is somewhat arbitrary, however; often very popular operations are omitted. For example, the Latzko extraperitoneal cesarean section is not described, and in the section on sterilization operations, the Madlener, cornual resection, and Aldridge techniques are the only ones mentioned. In the section on forceps operations, the Barton forceps and their uses are not considered at all.

One is at somewhat of a loss to know to whom this book is addressed. Possibly it would be of value to hospital house officers and to men doing only a moderate amount of obstetrics along with their general work. For anyone who has had training in the specialty it is somewhat elementary.

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THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF HEMOLYTIC STREPTOCOCCUS, DURING WORLD WAR II IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY. By Alvin F. Coburn, M.D., the Rheumatic Fever Research Institute, Northwestern University Medical School, and Donald C. Young, M.D., Medical Director, Communicable Disease Service, Herman Kiefer Hospital. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1949. \$4.00.

Hemolytic streptococcus infection was a major problem to the armed forces of the United States in World War I. Principal interest was attached to the association of these organisms with influenzal pneumonia during the great pandemic. Numerous outbreaks, however, of scarlet fever were observed and, in areas where this situation prevailed, there was a striking increase in acute articular rheumatism. The association between streptococcal infection and joint disease was not appreciated, nor was it realized that the arthritic disorders were indeed rheumatic fever. Clinical, epidemiological, and bacteriological information was not obtained in regard to epidemic streptococcal infection of the respiratory tract during that war. The rapid mobilization of troops after the entry of the United States into World War II in 1941 was again accompanied by extensive outbreaks of hemolytic streptococcal respiratory infection. These were most severe in the northeastern area and in a belt running southward along both sides of the Rocky Mountains. Extensive investigation of these outbreaks was carried on by the Army Epidemiological Board, the Rheumatic Fever Control Program of the U. S. Army Air Force, and by the U. S. Navy. Dr. Coburn has summarized the magnitude of the streptococcal problem in the Navy during World War II and the results of investigation by epidemiological units. He has portrayed well the disastrous results of epidemic streptococcal infection and accompanying rheumatic fever.

A typical naval training station in a northern area is described as is the spread of streptococcal infection through it. Certain of the author's suggestions as to the mode of spread of these organisms through such a training station are speculative and not susceptible of proof at the present time. He later describes the introduction and failure of mass sulfonamide chemoprophylaxis, the development of resistant strains, and the spread of such resistant streptococci to a number of naval activities throughout the country. The last half of the book is devoted to a discussion of the role of contamination of extra-human reservoirs in the transmission of streptococcal disease and to certain information in regard to laboratory and other methods used by the epidemiological units. In his concluding chapters Dr. Coburn discusses measures to be used during a mobilization of troops at some future time to prevent the spread of streptococcal infection. It is disturbing to realize that, in spite of the detailed studies carried out by the Navy and by the other military groups, no new measures for the control of streptococcal infection have been devised. Dr. Coburn makes certain suggestions in regard to the construction of camps and better isolation methods but, in the opinion of the reviewer, the only improvement that may be made over the techniques available during the last war would be the elimination of training centers in the northern part of the United States. The rec-

ords of all investigations show that streptococcal disease was not an important problem in the south and that rheumatic fever occurred less frequently in this area.

Dr. Coburn's book will not be of great interest to the practitioner but contains a wealth of information for the epidemiologist and others interested in infectious disease. It should also be required reading for all those responsible for the administration of medical services in the armed forces should mobilization of troops on a large scale again be necessary.

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FUNDAMENTALS OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY, a Text-book of Ear, Nose and Throat Diseases. By Lawrence R. Boies, M.D., Clinical Professor of Otolaryngology, University of Minnesota Medical School, and Associates. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1949. \$6.50.

The first few sentences of the preface read, "This book is the outgrowth of a plan for teaching the undergraduate medical student the fundamentals of otolaryngology. As a textbook it is not only designed to offer this basic instruction to the student but also to provide fundamental information to the physician who is not a specialist. It is not intended as a complete reference book." The authors have made a sincere effort to keep the volume within these stated limits and have achieved more than the expected success. They are to be commended for a product that is singularly free from recapitulation, rewriting or direct incorporation as a whole or in part of the many outmoded procedures, practices and theories that too often comprise up to one-third of the average text. This is refreshing. Whether or not the reviewer agrees with or employs implicitly or explicitly—and he does not—the theoretical expositions, method of diagnosis and proposed therapy, whether it be medical or surgical, would be beside the point were it not for the fact that such concord or disagreement acts as a baseline for the following criticisms and commendations. However, it is freely admitted that should every medical student and physician who is not a specialist have available and use intelligently the information available in this volume the otolaryngologic problems would be handled in a far more satisfactory manner than is the present custom.

The book is divided into three approximately equal sections: Part I, The Ear; Part II, The Nose; and Part III, The Throat. The section on the ear is good except for Chapter IX on Vertigo that seems somewhat involved for the novice and general practitioner. One has to read through several paragraphs to find that the direction of nystagmus is designated as being in accord with the quick component. The description of the internal workings and cost of the mechanical aids to hearing in Chapter X is interesting but not sufficiently detailed to permit discussion of the subject with the detail man, intelligent evaluation of the advertising claims or of real value to posterity.

Part II devoted to the nose is excellent in all respects. Chapter XV that deals with chronic nasal obstruction could be improved by at least mentioning several of the general conditions whose local manifestations produce nasal obstruction. The chapters devoted to the accessory nasal sinuses are adequate and present the modern attitude of conservation in diagnosis, therapy and surgery. Chapter XIX—Epistaxis—could be enlarged by at least 50 per cent and still not devote an unwarranted amount of space to this subject. This could be done at the expense of the following chapter on Atrophic Rhinitis.

Part III—The Throat—irritates one in the very first chapter (XXII) by referring the reader to subsequent chapters for details in regard to the nasopharynx and retropharynx. Chapter XXVII—Hoarseness—devotes most of its contents to paralyses and rather skims over the more common and more frequently encountered causes for hoarseness. Chapter

XXX in discussing anesthesia for esophagoscopy states, "Local anesthesia for adults is quite satisfactory. The procedure is usually surprisingly comfortable for the patient." Before one swallows this statement one should try an esophagoscope. Chapter XXXII—Prescription and Therapeutic Procedures—offers ground for considerable differences of opinion. The reviewer is wholly opposed to the use of an all glass laryngeal syringe even in the hands of the expert. It frequently happens that the prescriptions are outmoded by the time the book comes off the press.

In summary it is an excellent textbook. It is well made, printed in good type on gloss paper and contains numerous clear though in some instances poorly selected illustrations. The table of contents is extensive and adequate. The index is satisfactory. It is recommended to not only the direct objectives—the medical student and the practitioner who is not a specialist—but to all otolaryngologists.

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OPERATIONS OF GENERAL SURGERY. By Thomas G. Orr, M.D., Professor of Surgery, University of Kansas School of Medicine, Kansas City, Kansas, Second Edition. With 1700 Step-by-Step Illustrations on 721 Figures. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1949. \$13.50.

The second edition of this book has numerous additions in each chapter. All of the newer developments in cardiovascular surgery have been added, and the techniques for esophagectomy and total gastrectomy are clearly described. A good balance between description and illustration has been obtained, so that it is quite easy to visualize the main technical points of each section. The author has selected the most acceptable methods of dealing with the common surgical problems, but he will find many who disagree with his statements about local excision of gastric ulcer. The volume has been devised for the beginner as well as the practicing general surgeon, and for both it will be found useful.

It should prove to be an excellent quick reference book for the busy surgeon.

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MYCOSES AND PRACTICAL MYCOLOGY, A Handbook for Students and Practitioners. By N. Gohar, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), Assistant Professor, Parasitology and Mycology, Department of Clinical Pathology, Kasr El Ainy Faculty of Medicine, Fouad I University, Cairo, Egypt. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1948. \$6.00.

Increased interest in fungus disease has been reflected by the publication in recent years of several texts describing this group of infectious agents and the diseases caused by them. The present work, by an English author, is the least satisfactory of those that have come to the attention of the reviewer. The classifications used seemed needlessly complex. More than 20 species of pathogenic actinomycetes are described. For clinical purposes, segregation of these organisms into the anaerobic and the aerobic (nocardia) types is entirely adequate. The discussion of coccidioidomycosis is entirely inadequate and indicates that the author has not seen many of the studies published in this country in the last ten years. Histoplasmosis is mentioned but its possible association with nontuberculous calcification of the lung has been omitted. Ten pages have been devoted to a discussion of sprue, which the author admits is probably not a disorder resulting from infection of the gastrointestinal tract by monilia (Candida), and similarly, considerable space is devoted to fungus infections of the eyes, ears, and genitourinary tract. These are probably not of sufficient clinical importance to require such extensive treatment.

The last half of the book is devoted to a general discussion of fungus disease of the skin, which the reviewer did not feel qualified to discuss in detail. The etiological agents are segregated into a bewildering number of species, so many